

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 25406 01 OF 02 252109Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 EB-04 FEA-01 OES-02 INT-05 SIL-01

LAB-01 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NEA-06 IO-04 SAM-01

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----- 127719

R 252056Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3607

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 25406

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: GISCARD ON EUROPE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN COURSE OF HIS PRESS CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 24, FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING DISCUSSED
HIS VIEW OF FUTURE INSTITUTIONAL AND SUBSTANTIVE DEVELOP-
MENTS FOR "EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION." HE NOTED THAT
EUROPEAN UNION WOULD REQUIRE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY AND
SOME TRANSFER HAD ALREADY OCCURRED (E.G., CAP).

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PAGE 02 PARIS 25406 01 OF 02 252109Z

HE WENT TO SOME LENGTH, HOWEVER, TO REASSURE HIS

LISTENERS THAT FRANCE DID NOT ENVISION SIGNIFICANT TRANSFER OF FRENCH SOVEREIGNTY IN NEAR TERM. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT EC SUMMIT WHICH HE CALLED FOR LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER (PARIS 25230) SHOULD DISCUSS KEY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES SUCH AS ENERGY, INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF EC INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS. END SUMMARY.

2. SOVEREIGNTY: RECALLING THAT PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC AND FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES HAD REFERRED TO TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE, A QUESTIONER ASKED GISCARD'S VIEW ON SUBJECT OF TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY. GISCARD RESPONDED THAT "THEOLOGY HAS NEVER ADVANCED EUROPE, IT HAS HELD IT BACK BECAUSE THEOLOGY IMPRISONS (ENFERME) THE EUROPEANS IN THEIR QUARRELS INSTEAD OF LEADING THEM TO POSE PROBLEMS IN NEW AND CONTEMPORARY TERMS." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT CAP ALREADY INVOLVED TRANSFERS OF SOVEREIGNTY AND HE CONCLUDED THAT ONE CANNOT ORGANIZE A GROUP WITHOUT DECISIONS WHICH HAD FORMERLY BEEN TAKEN ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL BEING TAKEN NOW AT HIGHER LEVEL. GISCARD NOTED THAT ORGANIZATION OF PERIODIC EC NINE SUMMIT MEETINGS WOULD NOT INVOLVE THE TRANSFER OF ANY SOVEREIGNTY. NOR WOULD MOST OTHER FRENCH EC INITIATIVES INVOLVE THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY IN EARLY STAGES. ON OTHER HAND, HE ADDED, THERE IS ONE INITIATIVE PROPOSED BY FRENCH WHICH COULD INVOLVE SOME TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY: RELAXATION OF RULE OF UNANIMITY FOR CERTAIN COMMUNITY DECISIONS. REFERRING TO LUXEMBOURG COMPROMISE, HE SAID, "THIS LEADS TO AN UNWIELDY (LOURDE) PRACTICE BECAUSE IT IS SUFFICIENT FOR ONE DELEGATION -- I WOULD SAY EVEN ONE MEMBER OF ONE DELEGATION -- WHETHER IRRITATED OR TROUBLED BY THIS OR THAT SPECIFIC DECISION, TO INVOKE NATIONAL INTEREST" (TO VETO A COMMUNITY DECISION). "I HAVE POSED TO MY PARTNERS, THE QUESTION OF WHETHER WE COULDN'T EXAMINE IN COMMON AND DEFINE IN COMMON THE AREAS IN WHICH IT IS CLEAR THAT THE NATIONAL INTEREST IS NOT IN QUESTION AND FOR WHICH MORE FLEXIBLE AND RAPID DECISION PROCEDURES COULD BE ESTABLISHED. IN THAT CASE, THERE WOULD BE A TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY IN CERTAIN RESPECTS' BUT YOU SEE THAT IT IS A TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY BEGINNING WITH SMALL SUBJECTS RATHER THAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PARIS 25406 01 OF 02 252109Z

MAJOR SUBJECTS, SINCE FOR ALL THE QUESTIONS REALLY TOUCHING NATIONAL INTEREST . . . THE NATIONS WOULD RETAIN THE POSSIBILITY OF INVOKING THE OBLIGATION OF UNANIMITY."

3. EUROPEAN UNION: IN THE COURSE OF ISSUING HIS INVITATION TO EUROPEAN SUMMIT IN LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER, GISCARD EXPLAINED IN SOME DETAIL HIS CONCEPTION

OF "CONFEDERAL EUROPE." HE SAID ORGANIZATION OF EUROPE
MUST PROGRESS ALONG TWO ROUTES: INSTITUTIONAL AND SUB-
STANTIVE. RE INSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO
ORGANIZE PERIODIC MEETINGS OF EUROPEAN CHIEFS OF GOVERN-
MENT SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR TO DISCUSS PROGRESS FOR
EUROPEAN UNION AND TO EXERCISE COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY
AT HIGHEST LEVEL WITH REGARD TO "POLITICAL CONCERTATION."
ON SUBSTANCE, GISCARD SAID THAT EUROPE MUST HAVE "A
MEDIUM TERM VISION OF ITS FUTURE AND IT MUST EXAMINE
WHAT WILL BE ITS FUTURE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, SUPPLY OF
ENERGY, SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIALS, AND LEVEL OF
EMPLOYMENT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT A MORE MODERATE RATE OF
ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE YEARS TO COME." GISCARD SAID
EUROPEAN CHIEFS OF GOVERNMENT MUST UNDERTAKE TOGETHER,

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PAGE 01 PARIS 25406 02 OF 02 252104Z

64

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/081 W

----- 127590

R 252056Z OCT 74

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 25406

WITH PARTICIPATION OF EC INSTITUTIONS, DEFINITION OF COMMUNITIES' APPROACH TO THESE PROBLEMS. HE ADDED THIS SHOULD BE A SUBJECT OF "REFLECTION" DURING UPCOMING EC SUMMIT MEETING.

4. OIL NEGOTIATIONS: GISCARD SPECIFIED THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF EUROPE SHOULD SPEAK IN NAME OF EC-NINE AT HIS PROPOSED OIL NEGOTIATIONS, ON ASSUMPTION -- HE ADDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PARIS 25406 02 OF 02 252104Z

-- THAT NINE WILL BE ABLE TO AGREE ON CERTAIN NUMBER OF PRINCIPLES FOR A COMMON ENERGY POLICY. (SUBJECT OF GISCARD'S OIL NEGOTIATIONS PROPOSAL TREATED IN DETAIL IN SEPTEL.)

5. MIDDLE EAST: DECLARING THAT EUROPE CAN PLAY ROLE IN GUARANTEEING MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, GISCARD ADMITTED THAT EUROPE DOES NOT HAVE THE MILITARY MEANS TO UNDERTAKE SUCH GUARANTEE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT EUROPE DOES POSSESS "CERTAIN RESOURCES, CERTAIN ECONOMIC POSSIBILITIES, CERTAIN POSSIBILITIES OF SUPPLYING MATERIAL INCLUDING MILITARY MATERIAL, AND ONE COULD IMAGINE IN THIS REGARD THE POLICY OF EUROPE, AFTER A (MIDDLE EAST) SETTLEMENT, CONDUCTED IN COMMON SO AS TO BRING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROTECTION OF SECURE AND RECOGNIZED FRONTIERS, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN FINALLY ACCEPTED IN THAT REGION OF THE WORLD." (MIDDLE EAST PORTION OF GISCARD'S REMARKS TREATED IN SEPTEL.)

6. COMMENT: WE DO NOT DETECT ANYTHING REMARKABLY NEW IN THESE STATEMENTS ON EUROPE AND EUROPE'S ROLE IN THE WORLD. GISCARD'S CAREFUL TREATMENT OF THE "TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY" ISSUE WAS DESIGNED TO BLUNT CRITICISM THAT RECENT CHIRAC AND SAUVAGNARGUES STATEMENTS ON SUBJECT MAY SIGNAL READINESS BY GISCARD TO SACRIFICE FRANCE'S "INDEPENDENCE." THROUGH HIS REMARKS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF EC SUMMIT, GISCARD TRIED TO SHOW HIS EEC COLLEAGUES THAT THE SUMMIT MENU WILL NOT BE LIMITED TO INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS, BUT WILL CONTAIN SUBSTANTIVE MORSELS TO CHEW ON. (SEE PARIS 24980 AND LONDON 13926 FOR BACKGROUND ON THIS POINT.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, POLICIES, PRESS CONFERENCES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS25406
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740306-0135
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741016/aaaaamzl.tel
Line Count: 223
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GISCARD ON EUROPE
TAGS: PFOR, FR, EEC, (GISCARD D'ESTAING, VALERY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005